

Kathryn Williams

Author Visits & Workshops 2021-22

Background & Philosophy

In my fourteen years as an author visiting schools, and eight years as a mentor and teacher at [The Telling Room](#) in Portland, Maine, I've worked with hundreds of young writers, from the most reluctant to the exceptionally motivated. I believe everyone has a story inside of them and that while we should take young writers and readers seriously, we can teach them playfully.

Writing is a powerful tool for social-emotional learning. My ultimate goals for our time together are creative inspiration and exploration, increased self-confidence, and community-building. I utilize brainstorming, sharing, discussion, and inquiry-led feedback that allows a student to make choices. Also games—at every step of the process, including dreaded revision.

While my background and training is in the literary arts more than the world of education, my workshops align with a number of Common Core standards, and I am happy to work with you to integrate or reinforce your classroom study. Below, please find a menu of author visits and workshops that can be tailored to your school, library, book club, or group's needs.

For author visits (virtual and in-person Q&As) and short workshops, [contact me](#) using the form on my website. For full-day visits, extended workshops, or key note appearances, please contact my speaking agent, Liz Rudnick at erudnick@gmalit.com.

Pricing

I understand organizations' budgets vary widely, and I am eager to work with you. Be in touch, and we'll see what we can work out. In Maine, I encourage you to look into [Maine School Author Visit Grants](#), formerly through the Onion Foundation. In other locations, check out your state's commission for the arts and library association.

Virtual Meet the Author Q&A

Length: 30-45 minutes

Ages: 7th-12th grades

A casual question-and-answer session for groups of 10-25 students. I'll touch on a number of topics, from my path to becoming an author to the process of writing, researching, and publishing a book. I also want to hear from your writers and readers! These sessions work best when students brainstorm questions in advance. Great for book clubs or to kick off an extended workshop. As a bonus, I'll send swag! These sessions are limited, so please reach out for availability.

In-Person Q&A and Book Signing

Length: 45-60 minutes

Ages: 7th-12th grades

Team with a local or school bookstore to host a live Q&A session followed by a meet-and-greet and book signing. Includes a book giveaway + one free copy for a school or public library. Great paired with workshops!

Keynote and Book Signing

Length: 45-90 minutes

Ages: 7th-12th grades

Format: In-person with virtual option

Do you have a book festival, a career day, or a special event or unit coming up? A charismatic public speaker with a sense of humor, I've spoken to entire grades and schools about the ups and downs of finding my career and my voice as a writer and a person. Includes time for Q&A. Great for larger groups.

Short Writing Workshops

Length: 60-90 minutes

Format: Virtual or in-person

Up to 25 students (can work with multiple classes consecutively)

Pair with a Q&A and/or book signing!

Object Writing

Ages: 7th-12th grades

Physical objects are a fantastic way into writing. Students will find inspiration in a personal object or, for a cross-disciplinary twist, an antique object that will help them imagine and explore an historical era. They will leave with a piece of generative writing and inspiration for a piece of fiction.

Anatomy of a Scene

Ages: 9th-12th grades

An advanced workshop that dives deep into the mechanics of story. We'll use visual and hands-on exercises (get out the highlighters!) to appreciate the variety of craft tools available to us when writing or revising a scene. Students should enter the session with a draft of a scene (fiction or narrative nonfiction) and will leave with a revision.

Short Writing Workshops (cont.)

A Peek Behind the Publishing Curtain

Ages: 9th-12th grades

How does a book go from idea to shelf? Let two industry veterans—author Kathryn Williams and author, editor, and agent [Elizabeth Rudnick](#)—walk you through the process, sharing stories from their own working relationship along the way. Through role-playing, students will wear the hats of author, agent, and editor, and in small groups craft a compelling book “blurb.”

The Stories We Tell (Short)

Ages: 7th-12th grades

As Jess, the protagonist of *The Storyteller* observes, “We’re all made up of stories, the ones we tell ourselves and the ones we tell each other.” This short personal narrative workshop gets students thinking about the stories they tell (possibly without even realizing it!), and the ways these stories shape identity. Students will leave with a piece of generative writing and an outline for a personal narrative.

Full Day Visit

Length: 6(ish) hours

Ages: 7th-12th grades

Want me to give a keynote, visit multiple classes, and speak to your book club? Let’s do it!

Extended Writing Workshops

Length: Customizable, 5-10 sessions of 60-90 minutes each

Format: Virtual, only outside of Maine (in Maine, check out [The Telling Room](#))

Includes a Q&A session and optional book signing.

Flash Fiction

Ages: 7th-12th grades

Sometimes writing shorter is harder. The key is offering constraints that can actually open up creativity. Students will leave this extended workshop with a polished piece of short-short fiction. Great for both reluctant and enthusiastic writers.

Novel Bootcamp

Ages: 9th-12th grades

Hands down, the form that energizes most of the young writers I encounter—and the form with which they are most familiar—is the novel, and many kids these days are even working on their own. But how to wrap your arms around such an unwieldy and lumbering beast? In this extended workshop, students with a work in progress, or in mind, will lay the foundations for compelling characters and fully imagined settings. They will also learn how to create an effective outline and craft a compelling “blurb.”

Extended Writing Workshops (cont.)

The Stories We Tell (Long)

Ages: 7th-12th grades

In this longer version of my personal narrative workshop, we will explore how the personal can become universal and the universal can become personal. Students will be given space and support for deeper introspection about the stories that make them who they are and will emerge with a polished personal narrative. Can be a great experience in alt-ed classrooms.

Publish!

Team with Kathryn and Maine-based [Pink Eraser Press](#) to produce a beautiful, professionally packaged chapbook of student work. Must meet for a minimum of 10 sessions. [Email Kathryn](#) for details. (Outside of Maine only. In Maine, please check out [The Telling Room!](#))